

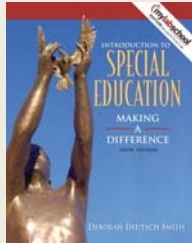
Introduction to Special Education: Making a Difference, Sixth Edition

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Chapter 1

Disabilities and Special Education: Making a Difference



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Chapter Objectives

- Explain the concepts of “disability” and “handicapped.”
- Describe how the lives of people with disabilities have improved over time.
- Discuss barriers and challenges that are experienced today by people with disabilities and need to be overcome, and explain how all of us can make a difference.
- Explain why the federal government provides unique protections for students with disabilities and their families.
- Explain the key features or fundamental tenets of special education.

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Create My Story



" you don't have to be handicapped to be different.
everybody is already different."

- **Kim Peek** is one of the **most famous savants**. He was the inspiration behind the Oscar and academy-award winning “Rainman (1988)” with Dustin Hoffman.
- Kim is gifted with photographic memory and has read and remembered more than 10,000 books. if a normal person can take 2-3 minutes to understand fully a page of a book, Kim can understand and memorize it in just 8 seconds!
- His only weaknesses are that he can't reason out mathematical equations and also has a difficulty in following instructions due to the fact that his brain structure lacks the *corpus callosum*, the longitudinal fissure that connects the left and right hemispheres of the brain.
- It is incredible to see not only his amazing abilities but also an amazing emotional relation with his father. Kim once said that "me and my father share the same shadow."

History

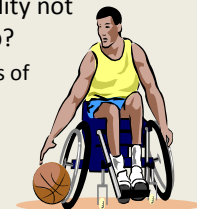
- Middle Ages and Renaissance, common to leave defective babies in the woods or throw them in the river
- 12th-18th century “protected” by being court jesters
- Others locked in asylums or labeled witches
- Nazi Germany sent them to death camps
- Third world countries today neglect children in orphanages and institutions (Bennett, 1997; Powell & Dlugy, 1998)
- Adults in the U.S. homeless with mental illness

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Disability Defined

- A disability is the result of condition or impairments
- Why is having a disability not necessarily a handicap?

Example: The residents of Martha's Vineyard



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The Essence of Disabilities

Ways of thinking that guide our perspectives:

- Deficit
- Cultural
- Sociological
- Disabilities significantly affect the people involved (Kauffman, 1997)
 - Need for “sameness” is dangerous
 - Minimizes people’s disabilities
 - Leads to conclusion that special services aren’t needed
 - Encourages attitude to reduce or discontinue services

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Special Education Categories for Classifying Disabilities

Autism	Deaf-blindness
Deafness	Emotional disturbance
Hearing impaired	Intellectual Disabilities
Multiple disabilities	Orthopedic impairment
Speech or language impairment	Specific learning disability
Other health impairments	Traumatic brain injury
Visual impairment	

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Language and Sensitivity

- Two basic rules:
 - Put people first
 - Do not make the person equal the disability
- For example:
 - Do say: “students with mental retardation”
 - Don’t say: “mentally retarded students”
- Exception: those with substantial visual and hearing problems who prefer a different descriptive approach

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The Origins of Special Education

- **1799:** Jean-Marc-Gaspard **Itard**, the Father of Special Education and the “wild child” Victor
- **Early 1800s:** Edward **Seguin** came to the U.S. to educate students with disabilities
- Thomas Hopkins **Gallaudet** brought experts in deaf education to the US
- **1898:** **Elizabeth Farrell** initiated public school classes for students with disabilities
- Sam Gridley **Howe** founded the New England Asylum for the Blind (later became the Perkins Institute)

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Changing Attitudes

- Attitudes changed during the last half of the 20th century due to:
 - Increased opportunities at the end of WWII
 - Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s
 - Advocacy for people with disabilities in the 1970s

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Federal Laws

- **1973:** **Section 504** of the Rehabilitation Act
- **1975:** **PL 94-142** Individuals with Disabilities Act (EHA)
- **1990:** **PL 101-476** Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA)
- **1990:** Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- **1997:** **PL 105-17** IDEA
- **2001:** **PL 107-110** No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (ESEA)
- **2004:** **PL 108-446** IDEA (reauthorized)

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Defining Special Education

- Special education is specially designed instruction to meet individuals' unique learning needs.
- Fundamental tenets for educational services delivered to students with disabilities:
 - Free appropriate public education
 - Least restrictive environment
 - Systematic identification procedures
 - Individualized education programs
 - Family involvement
 - Related services
 - Access to the general education curriculum

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Challenge Question

- What are some solutions to problems faced by students with disabilities and by educators charged with meeting their needs?
- Special education needs to:
 - Create responsive, flexible, and creative solutions
 - Form partnerships with parents and students
 - Develop goals for the field, including purpose, outcome expectations, and standards
 - Apply scientifically-validated approaches, methods, and practices

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Classroom Activity

- Scavenger Hunt
 - Log on to <http://www.museumofdisability.org/>
 - Complete the attached Scavenger's Hunt handout
 - Be prepared to discuss your findings in class

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